

commanders, directing a comprehensive organizational-functional review to achieve the most efficient organization in every activity. This review will continue to direct and shape Fort Leonard Wood for the decade to come.

General Ballard's insightful planning brought to fruition the interservice training review organization. His mastery of installation management, extensive expertise on the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Program, and tactical expertise in the combat support disciplines combined to promote Fort Leonard Wood as a TRADOC hub and future center for maneuver support training and combat developments and to consolidate the engineer, military police and chemical schools at Fort Leonard Wood. This exceptional vision and drive has ensured that Fort Leonard Wood will be a premier Force XXI Army Training Center.

General Ballard's accomplishments during his command of the Engineer Center at Fort Leonard Wood are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the corps of engineers, and the U.S. Army. I wish him well in his new assignment as Chief of Staff of TRADOC. He and his wife Tessie made scores of friends in Missouri and we will miss them.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Houston Fire Department on its 100th anniversary and to salute these brave men and women who have served the city of Houston so well.

The full-time Houston Fire Department began at 1 minute past midnight on June 1, 1895 with 44 men and 40 horses in 7 stations to serve Houston's 9 square miles. Only 32,000 people lived in Houston, and downtown was just a few square blocks. Today, the department employs 3,115 firefighters in 81 stations that serve 1.65 million people who live throughout Houston's 594 square miles.

Today, Houston has the third largest fire department in the Nation, and its emergency medical service ambulance division is recognized as one of the Nation's best for trauma care. The department's hazardous materials response team is also among the world's most experienced in handling petrochemical leaks, spills, and incidents.

We seldom think of firefighters unless we hear a screaming siren or see the flashing light of a fire engine. But the fact that we don't think often about firefighters is a testament to how well they do their job—we comfortably go about our everyday lives because we know that these dedicated people stand ready to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency.

So it is appropriate to mark this anniversary by thanking those who provide us with this everyday security and who stand ready to risk their lives to protect us. Much of firefighting is undramatic—keeping equipment in condition, teaching fire prevention, anticipating causes of fire. But a life-and-death emergency is always only a 911 call away, and firefighters and their

families live with that constant risk. For that, we say thank you.

It is especially appropriate that the Houston Fire Museum, is sponsoring a celebration to honor these men and women for their 100 years of dedication and service. And I congratulate the museum on the service it provides in honoring firefighters and educating the public about the importance of fire safety and the history of the fire service.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Houston Fire Department and the men and women who have dedicated themselves to serving others. For 100 years, they have kept the city of Houston safe.

A NOT-SO-HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MEDICARE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program—a program that has successfully provided much-needed health care benefits to millions of older Americans.

Unfortunately, there is a very dark side to this week's celebration. Medicare is under attack, and the new majority threatens to make deep and dangerous cuts in this critical program.

Their disdain for the Medicare system is not new. These are the same uncaring folks who 30 years ago claimed that Medicare was socialized medicine. The same people who fought every expansion of the program. The same people who last year, given the chance to save our health care system, said there was no crisis.

And now, the new majority has targeted Medicare to pay for their tax cuts for the wealthy. In return, 37 million seniors—people who have worked hard, paid their taxes all their life—will see their Medicare benefits slashed and their quality of care eroded.

Dipping into Medicare to make up for an unrelated tax cut is quite simply an outrage. Medicare is a sacred compact with America's seniors—not a fiscal candy jar.

Next year when we celebrate Medicare's anniversary, I want to be able to look seniors straight in the eye and say “yes, we have kept our word, and we have honored the compact we made with you.”

I know I'll keep my promise and I hope a new, new majority will do the same.

TRIBUTE TO CARLY JARMON

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 1995 Miss Texas, Carly Jarmon. I am pleased that Ms. Jarmon, representing the Oak Cliff area in my congressional district, will be competing in the Miss America Pageant in September.

Miss Jarmon is currently a sophomore at Texas Tech University in Lubbock where she is a public relations-advertising major. Upon

graduation, Miss Jarmon hopes to become a public relations advocate for charitable and nonprofit organizations.

A volunteer at Methodist Medical Center, Miss Jarmon has chosen organ and tissue donation awareness as the focus for her year of service as Miss Texas. Her “Circle of Life” message will be spread across the State of Texas, where she will speak to over 300,000 children and adults about the importance of organ donation.

This talented young woman is not only an inspiration to the residents of Oak Cliff, but she is also a great inspiration for the many Texans who will be cheering for her during the Miss America Pageant. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Jarmon on her recent accomplishment, and I would also like to wish her lots of luck as she vies for the crown of Miss America 1995.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNSON CHESTNUT WHITTAKER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johnson Chestnut Whittaker. This individual, one of the first black cadets to attend West Point, was posthumously commissioned as a second lieutenant by President Clinton in a White House ceremony earlier this week. The road to achieving this high honor has been long and arduous for the descendants of this distinguished American.

Many of us have followed closely recent press stories which detail a shameful incident in our Nation's history. In 1880, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker, a black West Point cadet, was found beaten and unconscious in his room. Although his legs had been tied and his face and hands were slashed, West Point administrators falsely accused Johnson of staging a racist attack on himself. Following a court martial in 1881, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker was expelled from the institution.

Mr. Speaker, despite the grave injustice which he suffered at West Point, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker persevered and made great achievements. During his lifetime he practiced law, served as a high school principal, and taught psychology. Johnson Whittaker died in 1931, never realizing that one day, his descendants would stand proudly to receive the rank and honor which was never afforded him by West Point.

One hundred and fifteen years following the West Point incident, and 64 years after the death of Johnson Chestnut Whittaker, his granddaughter, Cecil Whittaker Pequette, received the gold-plated bars from President Clinton, posthumously commissioning him as a second lieutenant. In his remarks at the White House ceremony, President Clinton noted that, “We cannot undo history. But today, finally, we can pay tribute to a great American and we can acknowledge a great injustice.”

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that many in this Chamber share the President's sentiments. I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Cecil Whittaker Pequette and other members of the Whittaker family for their unyielding pursuit of justice. We pause today in this Chamber to

pay special tribute to 2d Lt. Johnson Chestnut Whittaker.

HONORING KOREAN VETERANS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today Americans everywhere will turn their attention to our Nation's Capitol and pay long-overdue tribute to the those who fought and lost their lives in Korea. The monument being dedicated today in Washington is a proud symbol of our gratitude for the efforts of the American men and women who proudly served our country in Korea.

I cannot help but feel the emotion as I talk to Korean war vets from Connecticut who have come to the Capitol for this solemn occasion. They are here today to honor their friends and comrades who gave their lives for their country.

Freedom, democracy, and opportunity—these are the foundations of our society. These ideals are what set America apart, but too often, we take them for granted. We must never forget that our freedom was achieved, and has been maintained, at a cost. Countless American men and women have put their lives on the line to uphold and defend these guiding principles.

This national monument recognizing men and women who so bravely served our country in Korea, is long overdue. While the soldiers who fought in World War II and in Vietnam have rightfully been recognized with national memorials, the Korean veterans have not. Today, our Korean vets are finally getting the national recognition that they too deserve.

I salute our Korean war veterans for the contributions that they have made to this great country of ours. This memorial marks a milestone as we begin to pay the debt of honor owed those Americans who lost their lives in Korea.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL S. CLEVELAND, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Carl S. Cleveland, Jr., of Kansas City, MO. Dr. Cleveland, Jr., who was known worldwide as a chiropractic lecturer, passed away at the age of 77, at his home in Kansas City. At the time of his death he was serving as chancellor of the Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City and Los Angeles.

Dr. Cleveland, Jr., served as president of the Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City and of Los Angeles, before being appointed chancellor. He also served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Unity Temple. Dr. Cleveland, Jr., was a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the Cleveland Chiropractic College.

Dr. Cleveland, Jr., was an institutional member of the Council on Chiropractic Education,

and a founding member of the Beta Chi Rho Fraternity. He was also a member of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges and the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Dr. Cleveland, Jr., is survived by his son, Dr. Carl S. Cleveland III, his daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, and his sister-in-law. He will be remembered by all who knew him, as an outstanding citizen of Missouri and the United States.

KURDS IN TURKEY: THE TRUE STORY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the relationship between Turkey, its Kurdish population, and the PKK—the Kurdistan Workers Party—is greatly misunderstood. Contrary to what Turkey's critics in the United States Congress would like the rest of the world to believe, Turkey's Kurdish population is not oppressed by the Government. In fact, the Turkish Constitution provides that all citizens, including Kurds, have the same political rights and civil liberties which they may exercise equally, without impediment, regardless of ethnic or religious background.

Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin live freely throughout Turkey, and participate in all walks of life without discrimination. Kurds are doctors, lawyers, teachers, and artists. This is an important fact that is widely misunderstood. Twenty-five percent of the Turkish Parliament is composed of Kurdish Turks, even though only 18 percent of the general population is Kurdish. Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister is Kurdish. Even Turkey's former President Turgut Ozal was Kurdish.

In addition, Turkey works to protect the livelihood of Kurds in northern Iraq. When Saddam Hussein attacked his own Kurdish citizens with poisonous gas years before the gulf war, Turkey opened its doors and clothed, fed, and sheltered them until it was safe for them to return to their homes. After the gulf war, Turkey again accepted half a million Kurds fleeing from Saddam Hussein's tyranny. Today, Turkey hosts Operation Provide Comfort, the international effort which operates from Turkish bases to protect Iraqi Kurds.

These facts, however, are overshadowed by Turkey's fight against the PKK—Kurdistan Workers Party—a Marxist-Leninist terrorist group that is supported by Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Western societies fail to understand that the Kurds now fighting against Turkey are not the same Kurds suffering under the brutality of Saddam Hussein. Although the Kurdish people of Turkey have little sympathy for the PKK, the PKK has the audacity to claim that it represents the Kurdish people.

Another little-known fact about PKK terrorists is that they are not all Kurds. The PKK ranks include mercenaries and the unemployed from a host of other countries. The only support it receives from within Turkey, it extorts from innocent Kurdish businesses. The PKK is only able to continue its war against Turkey by maintaining bases outside of Turkey, such as one in Syria's Bekaa Valley, and training with other extremist organizations. Not only is the PKK unrepresentative of the true

aspirations of the Kurdish people, but its goal of "freeing the Kurdish people" is ironic when one considers what the PKK is ultimately seeking to accomplish: To set up an independent Kurdistan State based on Marxist-Leninist ideology. Such a Marxist-Leninist State would endanger the lives of many Turks and Kurdish Turks living in the region and threaten peace and stability throughout the entire Middle East.

Since its inception in 1984, the PKK has based its operations on intimidation. To force its ideology upon the masses, the PKK uses an extensive policy of oppression, and forces villagers, both Turks and Kurdish Turks, who are loyal to the State, to vacate their villages and move elsewhere. It has killed thousands of civilians, many of whom are the same Kurds that the PKK claims to represent, while sabotaging economic development projects that would assist in the strengthening of democracy in Turkey. It has also extorted money from the Kurds. Those who resist are murdered in groups. Their houses are burnt, and their harvests and livestock are destroyed. It is absurd to say that the PKK is an organization waging an armed struggle for the freedom of the Kurdish people.

What we are dealing with is a group that could seriously undermine the future of democracy in Turkey. It has defied the laws that are designed to promote economic opportunity and preserve law and order, in a democratic society that respects the rights and freedoms of all people in the region. Supporting a strong democratic Turkey in a generally volatile region has long been regarded as important to the United States. Therefore, it is in the interest of the United States to support Turkey's policies to combat PKK terrorism. It is not correct, however, to target Turkey's fight against terrorists like the PKK as a sign of democracy in danger. On the contrary, true danger would be signified if a democratic government were unwilling to protect its country's territorial integrity or its citizens' human rights from the inhuman measures of a terrorist organization.

By conditioning and threatening to cut off aid to Turkey, the United States is undermining a democratic government that is only seeking to protect its citizens and its territorial integrity. It is especially counterproductive to condemn Turkey's policies at this critical juncture when the Turkish Parliament is considering a series of constitutional reforms to bring Turkey's laws in line with those of the European Union, and just recently approved a 6-month extension of Operation Comfort to provide relief to Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq. In order to promote Turkish democracy, the United States should support Prime Minister Ciller in her efforts to fight PKK terrorism and improve democracy. The Turkish people deserve the support of their democratic allies in the face of PKK intimidation.

VOTE FRAUD IN AMERICA

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House Oversight Committee held its first hearing on vote fraud in America, geared primarily to the Federal motor-voter law. Officials and